



Waterford Waterway Management District

Small Scale Dredging Update

We hope that this update finds everyone enjoying a great beginning to the summer with everyone enjoying the waterway.

As you are likely aware, the district has been working hard for several years in the attempt to develop and execute a dredging project that would improve the depths of the navigational lanes and directly affected properties on the waterway.

Last year we began the process of seeking bids from engineers with the objective to have an experienced engineering firm develop a project manual and bid package that would be used as a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide guidance and direction to dredging companies to bid on a reduced sized dredging project as well as provide compliance in following the WI-DNR requirements, guidelines and directives. Our smaller project would now remove 145,000 cubic yards of sediment from our waterway, resulting in 5-foot-deep channels that are 25 feet wide in areas of the waterway that are now completely or nearly unnavigable to motor a boat in due to shallow depths and muck. It also includes removal of sediment between shorelines and piers out to those channels as outlined in information on the WWMD website (waterfordwwmd.com).

After selecting an engineer in the spring, they (with our support) put together a bid package and had eight dredging companies meet with us on our waterway in May of 2022 indicating their desire to bid our project. We were also concurrently working with the DNR to apply for the necessary permitting process as well. Unfortunately, we did not receive any official bids, however we did receive feedback expressing concerns over time allowed to bid and needed clarifications on certain points, so that companies bidding could better assess their proposals. This tells us that with some changes to the RFP, we should be able to get bids that will be able to meet our objectives

We knew that starting dredging in 2022 was going to be a stretch due to a very tight timeline. We made sure that this was shared through the year at our monthly meetings, but we continued to pursue every possible avenue to make this work. The lack of bids may actually serve everyone better in the long run as the feedback from the dredgers offers the ability to make the project easier for them to bid and in turn potentially reduce overall costs.

Our intent is to request bids this fall with modifications to our original RFP. Hopefully we will receive bids that will allow us to proceed to the next step of gaining the appropriate riparian property approvals. Requesting bids in the fall gives the dredging companies additional time that was not available for them to bid previously and removes some of the obstacles they felt made it difficult, or for some of the contractors, impossible to bid.

We will continue to offer updates at each monthly meeting and as always, please feel free to reach out to our ESR Chairman Grant Horn with any questions or any of the WWMD commissioners. You can find contact information on our website (waterfordwwmd.com)

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